

Name: **Point of Rocks WY-030-28N86W18-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☐ X ☒ Yes ☐ _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: N/A _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _ N/A _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A _____

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): __ N/A

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record: N/A

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Point of Rocks WY-030-28N86W** Acreage 38,818.50

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the north by the Rawlins Field Office Boundary. The unit is bound on the northwest and west by State Hwy 220 as well as private and state land. The unit is bound on the southwest by Carbon County Road 499. The unit is bound on the east by County Road 497.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Point of Rocks area under consideration is 38818.50 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t27n	r86w	22	t28n	r87w	23
t27n	r86w	21	t28n	r87w	22
t27n	r86w	15	t28n	r87w	21
t27n	r86w	16	t28n	r87w	20
t27n	r86w	17	t28n	r85w	18
t27n	r86w	10	t28n	r86w	13
t27n	r86w	9	t28n	r86w	14
t27n	r86w	8	t28n	r86w	15
t27n	r86w	7	t28n	r86w	16
t27n	r87w	12	t28n	r86w	17
t27n	r86w	3	t28n	r86w	18
t27n	r86w	4	t28n	r87w	13
t27n	r86w	5	t28n	r87w	14
t27n	r86w	6	t28n	r87w	15
t27n	r87w	1	t28n	r87w	16
t27n	r87w	2	t28n	r87w	17
t28n	r86w	35	t28n	r87w	18
t28n	r86w	34	t28n	r85w	7
t28n	r86w	33	t28n	r86w	12
t28n	r86w	32	t28n	r86w	11

t28n	r86w	31	t28n	r86w	10
t28n	r87w	36	t28n	r86w	9
t28n	r87w	35	t28n	r86w	8
t28n	r87w	34	t28n	r86w	7
t28n	r86w	25	t28n	r87w	12
t28n	r86w	26	t28n	r87w	11
t28n	r86w	27	t28n	r87w	10
t28n	r86w	28	t28n	r87w	9
t28n	r86w	29	t28n	r87w	8
t28n	r86w	30	t28n	r87w	7
t28n	r87w	25	t28n	r87w	5
t28n	r87w	26	t28n	r85w	6
t28n	r87w	27	t28n	r86w	1
t28n	r87w	28	t28n	r86w	2
t28n	r87w	29	t28n	r87w	4
t28n	r85w	19	t28n	r86w	3
t28n	r86w	24	t28n	r86w	4
t28n	r86w	23	t28n	r86w	5
t28n	r86w	22	t28n	r86w	6
t28n	r86w	21	t28n	r87w	1
t28n	r86w	20	t28n	r87w	2
t28n	r86w	19	t28n	r87w	3
t28n	r87w	24			

The Point of Rocks area surrounds several areas of private and state land within central portions of the unit. The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, ridges, hills, and other drainages created by the Point of Rocks run-off. Elevation ranges from 6,935 feet on the Point of Rocks above the drainages to, approximately, 6,400 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The area contains a number of sand dunes. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 186.35 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 9, 13-14, and 17- 20. When hiking across the Point of Rocks Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable

linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains 4 oil and gas wells throughout the Point of Rocks Unit (see locations in unit map). These oil and gas installations within the unit represent permanent improvements and loss of primeval character. Upon examining the status of these oil and gas wells, it was determined that one well was permanently abandoned and three wells are water source status. Despite the variation in status, these wells remain as existing installations that detract from the naturalness and are substantially noticeable to the casual observer while hiking through the unit. All wells, which are not abandoned, are managed as active wells and receive commercial vehicle traffic for periodic maintenance. This traffic would interrupt the casual observer's experience of wilderness character due to road dust plumes and the contrast between the white coloration of these vehicles moving across the tan, brown, and olive landscape. Well pads do not receive final reclamation approval until they have been plugged and abandoned. Visual contrasts created by surface disturbances, including well pad turn-arounds, soil exposure around the facilities, and a rectangular area of wheat grass, remain until final reclamation is established.

The Point of Rocks Unit also contains eight man-made reservoirs (see locations in unit map and photos 3 and 16). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the eight reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" has been contaminated by cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including the eight reservoirs, two springs (see Photo 1), 14 water wells, and 33.64 miles of fence, were developed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Point of Rocks Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has

outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturallness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturallness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Point of Rocks WY-030-28N86W18-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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